

# NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries  
May 19, 2025

## State Library Updates

### ¿Cómo Se Dice? Spanish Conversation Hour

The final Spanish Conversation Hour is happening **tomorrow, May 20th**, with two sessions, taking place at **10am and 1pm**. This statewide pilot program, hosted by LibraryLinkNJ, joins a native Spanish speaker from the NJ library community and up to 14 other library colleagues, who gather via Zoom to practice common vocabulary and phrases surrounding one of six library-related topics. The topic of the final two sessions will be Technology. Discussion leaders include Luisa Martucci, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator at the New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center for the 10am session, and Yesenia Lopez, Director of the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center at the Newark Public Library for the 1pm session.

[Learn more and register.](#)

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### NJSL Presents: Juneteenth Webinar - Abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey, a Virtual Author Talk

Please join us on **June 19th, 12pm - 1pm**, in celebration of Juneteenth, as author Ellen D. Alford recounts compelling narratives of abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey. Ellen D. Alford is a native South Jersey resident and local historian who researches and writes about the Underground Railroad, slavery, abolition, and Harriet Tubman in South Jersey. A graduate of Howard University, Allen is a former newspaper correspondent, public school educator, and a college/university administrator.

[Learn more and register.](#)

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## The Talking Book and Braille Center: Resources and Services for the Print Disabled

Founded in 1967, the NJ State Library's Talking Book and Braille Center provides no-cost, home-delivered services on behalf of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. In honor of Deaf-Blind Awareness Week, please join us on **June 24th, 12pm - 1pm**, as Liz Kelly, Adult Services Librarian, and Luisa Martucci, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, provide an overview of the resources and services available at no cost to qualified NJ residents.

[Learn more and register.](#)

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## News from Around the State

### Make the Road NJ: Know Your Rights Webinar

With an increase in activity by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, library workers and administrators are invited to join Lauren Herman from Make the Road NJ and Natalie Kraner from Lowenstein Sandler, on **June 2nd, at 2pm**, for a valuable and timely program. Representatives will share information on the rights of library users when dealing with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other law enforcement officials. The information presented in the program does not constitute legal advice or opinion. New Jersey library workers and administrators can [click here to register](#).

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### NJ Dept. of Labor's Young Workers Hub

NJDOL has developed a suite of online resources specifically for young workers. These free resources include guidance on resume writing, interviewing skills, child labor laws, and more. NJDOL is encouraging young people and their caregivers to visit the state's [Young Workers Hub](#) to find resources to help them get prepared for a new job, including how to easily apply for working papers online.

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### New Online Referral Programs for Small Businesses

The NJ Business Action Center, a division within the Department of State, has launched a no-cost online referral program to assist eligible New Jersey businesses in finding a mentor or establishing or growing their online presence. The NJBAC is looking for help spreading the word. Please pass this information along to your library patrons who are part of the small business community. [Read more.](#)

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## NJSL Presents June Events

Our NJSL Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and all webinars are recorded and posted to our [YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also check out event recaps on our [blog](#)! Here's what we have coming up, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Researching Your Pre-May 1848 New Jersey Ancestors](#) - June 11th @ noon
- [Virtual Author Talk - Abolition and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey](#) - June 19th @ noon
- [The Talking Book and Braille Center: Resources and Services for the Print Disabled](#) - June 24th @ noon
- [Understanding Posttraumatic Stress Disorder](#) - June 27 @ noon

## Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the State Library's [CE Training webpage](#) for a variety of Continuing Education training opportunities for New Jersey librarians, library support staff, and trustees.

[On-Demand Training Portal](#) in the LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace and a list of [programs](#) currently being offered.

[Professional Development Links](#) and [Webinars and Other Training Events](#) from the NJLA Professional Development Committee.

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of CE and Professional Development opportunities.

## Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, check out our [Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [Grab Patrons' Attention With These Videos](#)
- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)
- [Have Hashtags Gone Out of Style?](#)
- [Look Out for These Social Media Trends in 2025](#)
- [Inclusive Marketing for Libraries](#)

Download sharable social media graphics and videos from the [Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign](#).

Also, you can download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners [here](#).

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